

PASTORAL LETTER.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA, IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

MY DEAR BRETHREN,

The Synod at its late meeting, upon an application from the Board of Trustees of the University of Queen's College, unanimously adopted the following Resolution:—

"At Toronto, and within St. Andrew's Church there:—Monday, the Fifth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty four years:—the which day the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, met, according to adjournment, and was constituted with prayer.

INTER ALIA,

"The Synod, having heard the statements of the Honorable John Hamilton and the Reverend Professor George, c. deputation of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Queen's College to represent to the Synod the claims of that Institution upon our Church, record their satisfaction with the representations that have been made respecting its condition and prospects generally, and in particular with the purchase of the Summerhill Property in the City of Kingston on terms so favourable, having on it buildings for all the purposes of the College for a long time to come; and the Synod, in compliance with the request made by the deputation to assist the Trustees of the College to raise the sum of £8000, the purchase price of the property acquired, recommend to all the congregations within their bounds to exercise their largest liberality in this behalf; and the deputation having stated that, if the Synod gave their sanction, it was their intention to send out some of the Professors in the course of the present summer to solicit contributions to pay the purchase price of the property acquired, the Synod agree to recommend, and hereby do recommend to Presbyteries, as soon as these Professors shall have come within their bounds, to appoint two clergymen and two laymen to act with them and assist them in their object, viz: to collect as far as may be in their power the unpaid subscriptions, and to obtain new subscriptions; and, further, the Synod recommend in the conducting of this business, that the deputation appointed, before attempting to canvass within the bounds of any congregation for subscriptions, shall previously obtain the full consent of the minister, elders and temporal managers of said congregation; and further, the Synod recommend that the Trustees do publish, on their part, a full expose of the funds, plans and prospects of the University, and, on the part of the Synod, the Synod authorize their Moderator to publish a Pastoral Letter in their name, enforcing on our people the duty of sustaining and extending this Institution, founded originally by their liberality;—and further, should the Deputation from the College deem it expedient to proceed to the Lower Provinces in the furtherance of their object, the Moderator is authorised to write, in the name of the Synod, a fraternal letter to the ministers and congregations there, requesting their cordial co-operation and effective aid; and finally, the Synod recommend to the brethren who shall be engaged in this work to use their best exertions to stir up parents, possessing the means, to confer upon their sons that higher education which Queen's College was founded to give, and to consecrate to the work of the ministry such of them as afford favorable indications of piety and talents, that the main design of this Institution may be secured—the preparation of young men for the ministry of our Church."

Extracted from the Records of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, on this and two preceding pages, by

(Signed)

ANDREW BELL,
Synod Clerk.

Permit me, in conformity with the above Resolution, to address to you a few words on the importance of the object to which it refers, and to bring before you the circumstances in which your liberality is now urgently solicited in aid of the funds of Queen's College. Already one main object in its establishment has been, in some measure, fulfilled by its having sent forth Eighteen Ministers and Probationers, to engage in their Master's work in connexion with our Church; many of whom, we have reason to believe, are laboring in His service with great faithfulness and success. Of these, four were settled as Ministers during the past year, and five have been licensed to preach the Gospel since last meeting of Synod. But the fast increasing population of the Province—the number of stations ready to be formed into fixed charges, yet still unoccupied, and the vacancies by death from year to year, taking place in congregations already settled—all loudly call upon us to be up and doing, and in the use of the means and opportunities which have been put into our hands to provide additional laborers to be sent forth into the wide field, now ripe unto the harvest. Experience has shewn, that the supply of Ministers which can be expected from the Parent Church is altogether inadequate. The well-being, and even existence, of our Church are, therefore, intimately connected with the prosperity of Queen's College, which was begun under its auspices; and you are now, in accordance with the Resolution of Synod already referred to, earnestly called upon to sustain and extend it.

By the prudent management of its Funds, the small annual revenue of the College has been in some degree increased. But a fourth Professor has been appointed during the past year, and the additional sum necessary, for the payment of the salary of the Principal will wholly exhaust the resources at the disposal of the Trustees. At the same time, the inconvenience of Class-rooms in hired houses, not adapted for the purposes of instruction—the want of a local habitation of its own for the College, while Trinity, McGill and Victoria Colleges, none of which, it may be safely said, have better prospects than Queen's College, if its prospects be rightly improved, have commodious and elegant buildings,—the urgent call from all parts of the Province, for the institution of Faculties of Medicine and of Law, which, although they will entail no additional annual burden on the funds, will require additional accommodation,—these, among other considerations, have strongly impressed the Trustees with the conviction of the necessity of providing a suitable College Building. They have accordingly purchased, on the very favorable terms on which it was offered to them, £8000 currency, the House and Grounds hitherto known by the name of Summerhill. The building, which is unusually extensive, will, for many years, be amply sufficient for the purposes of the University. The first instalment of the purchase money, £2000, has this year been paid with the assistance of the Bank, but £4000 is still due. The Board of Trustees, therefore, with the unanimous sanction of the Synod, propose, with as little delay as possible, to collect subscriptions from the different Presbyteries and Congregations of the Church, for the purpose of defraying the heavy expense thus incurred.

A regular and increased supply of Ministers is absolutely necessary for the maintenance and extension of our Church. The only means, humanly speaking, by which there is any prospect of this being obtained is Queen's College, aided by the efforts of the Ministers, Kirk Sessions and Congregations themselves. It ought, therefore, to be one great object with every Congregation to look out for and encourage deserving young men who may be desirous of giving themselves to the work of the Ministry, and to assist them, if necessary, in prosecuting their studies at the University. No tuition fees, it may be observed, are exacted from those studying with a view to the Ministry. There are few congregations from which one, if not two, Students might not without difficulty be sent to College, and in this way the supply of the wants of the Church would be most effectually promoted.

We have already adverted to some of the reasons which induced the Trustees to purchase a College Building and Grounds. The present is a critical period in the progress of the College. It is of the utmost consequence, at the present moment, that the Educational Institution of the Synod of Canada, in connexion with the Church of Scotland, should be provided with these, in order that it may be able fully to sustain its position. Other Colleges, and the denominations with which they are connected, are exerting themselves with great energy and success, to extend the efficiency and influence of their Institutions, and, if Queen's College is even to maintain any advantage or standing which it may have gained, it will require your prompt and liberal aid by your contributions in its behalf, to enable it to carry on its operations in an edifice of its own, in some measure suited to its title as the University of Queen's College. We trust, therefore, that when the Deputation shall visit, as they propose in a short time to do, this portion of the Province, you will give your cordial support to the accomplishment of an end so desirable, and so important to our Church.

Signed in name of, and by authority of Synod, at Kingston, this 20th day of June, 1854.

JAMES WILLIAMSON,
MODERATOR.